

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 109897

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SGEN, EAIS, ELAB, PEPR, PORG, JO

SUBJECT:ECWA CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT

REF: AMMAN 3684 (NOTAL)

1. DEPARTMENT IS CONSIDERING ISSUE OF U.S. PARTICIPATION
IN ECWA SPONSORED SEMINAR ON WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT.
FYI. U.S. PARTICIPATION IS PROBLEMATIC FOR FOLLOWING
REASONING:

2. LAST FEBRUARY DEPARTMENT TURNED DOWN A PROPOSAL THAT
AID PROVIDE \$25,000 IN SEED MONEY TO FUND A REGIONAL
PREPARATORY CONSULTATION MEETING IN BEIRUT WHICH WOULD
HAVE DRAFTED A REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR AN ECWA SEMINAR
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ON THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT. DEPARTMENT'S
REASONING WAS BASED ON THE EXCLUSION OF ISRAEL FROM
MEMBERSHIP AT ECWA'S INCEPTION IN 1974 AND THE APRIL, 1977,
ADMISSION OF THE PLO TO FULL MEMBERSHIP. US AND EC OB-
JECTED STRONGLY TO ADMISSION OF PLO AND VOTED AGAINST
IT AT THE JULY 1977 ECOSOC MEETING. WHILE ECWA IS
FINANCED THROUGH THE UN ASSESSED BUDGET AND US THEREFORE

PROVIDES 25 OF ITS FUNDS, THE \$25,000 WOULD HAVE BEEN
FIRST DIRECT EARMARKED CONTRIBUTION TO ECWA. SUCH A DIRECT

CONTRIBUTION COULD WELL HAVE BEEN CONSTRUED AS WEAKENING
OF OUR POSITIONS ON ISRAEL AND THE PLO AS WELL AS TACIT
APPROVAL OF ECWA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WHICH EXCLUDE
ISRAEL AND ACCEPT THE PLO AS MEMBER.

3. HOWEVER, WE HAVE DECIDED TO CONTINUE SENDING US OB-
SERVERS FROM LOCAL POSTS TO ECWA MEETINGS, AND PARTICIPA-
TION OF DR. ADLER AND MS. FRASER MAY BE ACCEPTABLE.

4. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT DEPARTMENT SHOULD AGREE TO
FUND AFL/CIO PARTICIPATION, NOR DO WE THINK AFL/CIO WOULD
WANT TO PARTICIPATE GIVEN ECWA HISTORY.

5. WOULD BE HELPFUL IF EMBASSY COULD DIRECTLY ASCERTAIN
IF PLO REPS ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN MAY 30-JUNE 4
CONFERENCE. THIS IS GERMANE TO QUESTION OF ADLER/FRASER
PARTICIPATION. INFORMATION RE PROPOSED AGENDA WOULD ALSO
BE HELPFUL. VANCE

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